

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SULFUR IN FEBRUARY 2007

During the month, production of recovered elemental sulfur was 621,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. February 2007 production was 14% lower than that of January 2007 and about the same as that of February 2006. Shipments were 23% lower than those of January 2007. Producers' ending stocks for February 2007 were 221,000 t. Sulfur production is typically lower in February than in January because the month is shorter, but maintenance at oil refineries resulted in downtime that also limited sulfur production.

Import and export data for February 2007 were not available at the time of publication and will be published in the Sulfur in

March 2007 Mineral Industry Surveys along with apparent consumption. Imports of recovered sulfur for January 2007 were estimated to be 279,000 t; exports were 82,000 t. Imports of sulfuric acid for January 2007 were 238,000 t; exports were 42,000 t.

Significant adjustments have been made to the sulfur import data. Reports from the U.S. Census Bureau appear to underreport sulfur imports, especially material from Canada. The revised figures are based on Census information and data from personal communications with industry experts.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SULFUR STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production			Shipments, all sources	Ending stocks ³
	Petroleum ²	Natural gas	Total		
2006:					
January-December	6,960	1,430	8,390	8,290	XX
January-February	1,090	234	1,320	1,320	XX
February	513	116	628	635	152
March	544	121	665	669	145
April	546	124	670	652	163
May	591	123	714	705	164
June	586	99	685	697	149
July	600	119	719	695	172
August	618	122	740	726	184
September	597	112	710	726	168
October	594	127	720	692	196
November	573	124	698	690	203
December	624	122	746	723	221
2007:					
January	598 ^r	127	726 ^r	753 ^r	183 ^r
February ^p	506	115	621	583	221
Total	1,100	242	1,350	1,340	XX

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes a small quantity from coking operations.

³Subject to inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFUR¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada		Mexico		Venezuela		Total, all countries ²	
	Quantity ^e	Value ³	Quantity	Value ³	Quantity ^e	Value ³	Quantity ^e	Value ³
2005, January-December	1,970	33,500	427	18,600	409	16,800	2,820	70,500
2006:								
January	165	4,190	58	2,520	37	1,680	260	8,460
February	150	3,910	43	1,810	40	1,650	233	7,450
March	165	3,970	44	2,010	34	1,580	243	7,690
April	205	4,290	29	1,420	30	1,410	264	7,230
May	210	3,260	29	1,390	19	925	259	5,820
June	205	2,550	44	1,970	29	1,270	281	6,120
July	165	2,370	43	1,900	33	1,370	241	5,730
August	165	2,330	43	1,770	20	824	229	4,940
September	160	1,970	43	1,730	31	1,240	245	4,970
October	170	1,960	43	1,710	32	1,270	246	4,990
November	165	1,210	14	577	18	725	198	2,620
December	170	1,020	43	1,350	36	1,140	250	4,410
Total	2,100	33,000	476	20,100	359	15,100	2,950	70,400
2007, January	170	2,480	43	1,300	23	695	279	4,500

^eEstimated.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include other countries not listed.

³Declared customs valuation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau data as adjusted by U.S. Geological Survey and PentaSul North America Sulphur Service.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SULFURIC ACID¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Canada			Mexico			Total, all countries ²		
	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ³	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ³	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ³
2005, January-December	2,000	656	80,700	398	129	7,920	2,660	871	102,000
2006:									
January	194	63	7,800	16	5	444	244	80	9,030
February	161	53	6,550	23	7	416	201	66	7,670
March	198	65	7,760	19	6	454	255	83	9,050
April	207	68	7,910	16	5	400	234	77	9,100
May	207	68	7,840	13	4	307	229	75	8,320
June	189	62	7,030	2	1	56	208	68	7,860
July	181	59	6,290	7	2	157	228	74	6,900
August	212	69	7,330	22	7	624	245	80	8,070
September	178	58	6,850	23	8	557	201	66	7,490
October	93	30	4,650	19	6	464	122	40	5,320
November	93	31	5,440	21	7	512	154	50	6,740
December	65	21	3,710	18	6	713	109	36	5,530
Total	1,980	647	79,200	200	64	5,100	2,430	795	91,100
2007, January	216	71	8,930	22	7	510	238	78	9,510

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include other countries not listed.

³Declared customs valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Sulfur		Sulfuric acid		
	Quantity	Value ²	Quantity	Sulfur content	Value ²
2005, January-December	683	55,900	348	108	29,500
2006:					
January	55	4,430	14	4	1,400
February	15	1,900	38	12	2,400
March	68	4,710	23	8	2,000
April	11	1,270	19	6	1,600
May	19	2,090	17	5	1,400
June	141	8,790	11	4	1,370
July	79	4,540	18	6	2,030
August	15	2,380	37	12	2,280
September	15	1,540	11	4	1,320
October	84	4,910	20	6	1,730
November	48	2,980	9	3	1,040
December	85	4,250	32	10	3,270
Total	635	43,800	249	80	21,800
2007, January	82	5,510	42	14	2,960

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Declared f.a.s. (free alongside ship) valuation.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. CONSUMPTION OF SULFUR¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Domestic sources ²	Imports ^e	Consumption
2005, January-December	8,080	2,820	10,900
2006:			
January	627	260	887
February	620	233	853
March	601	243	844
April	641	264	905
May	686	259	945
June	556	281	837
July	616	241	857
August	711	229	940
September	711	245	956
October	608	246	854
November	642	198	840
December	638	250	888
Total	7,660	2,950	10,600
2007, January	671	279	950

^eEstimated.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Calculated as shipments minus exports.

TABLE 6
RECOVERED SULFUR PRODUCED AND SHIPPED IN THE UNITED STATES,
BY PAD (PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENSE) DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons)

District and source	February 2007 ^p		January 2007		January-February 2007 ²		January-February 2006 ²	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
PAD 1:								
Petroleum and coke	22	22	23	23	45	45	37	37
Natural gas	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3
Total	23	23	24	24	46	47	40	39
PAD 2:								
Petroleum and coke	80	80	96 ^r	96 ^r	176	176	168 ^r	168 ^r
Natural gas	3	3	3	3	7	6	6	6
Total	83	83	99 ^r	99 ^r	183	182	174 ^r	175 ^r
PAD 3: ³								
Petroleum and coke	322	301	371	397	693	698	667	668
Natural gas	41	33	51	53	92	85	75 ^r	77 ^r
Total	363	334	422	450	785	783	742 ^r	745 ^r
PAD 4 and 5: ⁴								
Petroleum and coke	83	77	108	106 ^r	191	187	213	203
Natural gas	70	66	72	73 ^r	142	137	150 ^r	156 ^r
California	66	57	86	86 ^r	153	145	171 ^r	163 ^r
Total	153	143	180	179 ^r	333	324	363 ^r	359 ^r
Grand total	621	583	726 ^r	753 ^r	1,350	1,340	1,320 ^r	1,320 ^r

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include revisions.

³Includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

⁴Quantities produced and shipped in California included in petroleum and natural gas. California total shown for information purposes only.

TABLE 7
COMPARATIVE SULFUR AND SULFURIC ACID STATISTICS¹

(Million metric tons per year [annualized basis] and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	2007			2006
	February	January	Total	total
Production	8.10 ^p	8.55 ^r	8.33 ^r	8.38
Shipments	7.60 ^p	8.87 ^r	8.27 ^r	8.29
Exports of sulfur	NA	0.97	0.97	0.63
Imports of sulfur:				
Canada	NA	2.00 ^e	2.00 ^e	2.09 ^e
Mexico	NA	0.51	0.51	0.47
Venezuela	NA	0.27 ^e	0.27 ^e	0.36 ^e
Total ²	NA	3.28 ^e	3.28 ^e	2.95 ^e
Exports of H ₂ SO ₄	NA	0.49	0.49	0.25
Imports of H ₂ SO ₄ :				
Canada	NA	2.54	2.54	1.98
Mexico	NA	0.26	0.26	0.20
Total ²	NA	2.80	2.80	2.45
Consumption: ³				
Domestic sources	NA	7.90	7.90	7.66
Imports	NA	3.28	3.28	2.95 ^e
Total	NA	11.18	11.18	10.61
Sulfur export values ⁴	NA	67	67	69
Sulfur import values: ⁴				
Canada	NA	14	14	16
Mexico	NA	30	30	42
Venezuela	NA	30	30	42
Average ²	NA	16	16	24
H ₂ SO ₄ export values ⁴	NA	70	70	88
H ₂ SO ₄ import values: ⁴				
Canada	NA	41	41	40
Mexico	NA	23	23	26
Average ²	NA	40	40	37

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes other countries not listed.

³Because February trade data were not available, February consumption was not determined.

⁴Average value per ton for most recent data available.